

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 SCI-06 EB-11 NSF-04 AID-20 NAS-01

HEW-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 206675

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL. WHILE RESPONSE IS NOT SERIATIM, BELIEVE IT TOUCHES ON ALL POINTS TO BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

2. THE GOP IS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP AN ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH IT CAN DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. IT IS PURSUING THIS IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (A HERETOFORE INACTIVE ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY-- ON PAPER--OF COORDINATING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PERU) IS TRYING TO REJUVENATE ITSELF AND ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN THIS FIELD. IT IS FACING AN UPHILL BATTLE AND APPEARS TO HAVE THE LEAST CHANCE OF SUCCESS. SECOND, THE VARIOUS PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP A STRUCTURE WITHIN WHICH THEY CAN COOPERATE IN THEIR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO COORDINATE

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THEIR ACTIVITIES.

3. ISAIAS FLIT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ITINTEC (INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND STANDARDS), WHO ATTENDED BOTH BRASILIA MEETINGS, IS CLEARLY THE PRINCIPAL PERUVIAN SPOKESMAN ON TECHNOLOGY, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, AT THIS TIME. OTHER OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS INCLUDE ENRIQUE ANDERSON, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, AND SEVERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS: CARLOS GAMARRA (IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS), OSWALDO DE RIVERO (IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS), GUILLERMO GERDAU (IN CHARGE OF OAS AFFAIRS), AND JORGE PEREZ (IN CHARGE OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION). THESE INDIVIDUALS DO NOT YET APPEAR TO HAVE A VERY SIGNIFICANT INPUT INTO PERU'S THINKING ON TECHNOLOGY.

4. ONE MUST NOTE THAT THE PERUVIAN ECONOMY IS ESSENTIALLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THUS, THERE IS NO PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPING WITH WHICH THE GOP WOULD CONSULT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE SECTOR VIEWS MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ON AN AD HOC BASIS. FLIT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE VICE-MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM AND, THEREFORE, DOES REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN THIS PROCESS. HE IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE NEW LDC TECHNOCRAT--MIT EDUCATED, HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC, STRONGLY ANTAGONISTIC TOWARDS WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS A CENTURY AND A HALF OF U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM VIS-A-VIS LATIN AMERICA, AND EXTREMELY SELF-CONFIDENT.

5. WHILE THE FOLLOWING MAY DO A DISSERVICE TO FLIT AND HIS VIEWS, WE BELIEVE HIS BASIC POSITION CAN BE SUMMED UP VERY SIMPLY AS FOLLOWS. THE "NAME-OF-THE-GAME" FOR FLIT IS CONTROL BY THE USG OF U.S. TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS OPERATING IN LATIN AMERICA. U.S. ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION HAS PLACED EFFECTIVE CONTROLS ON U.S. COMPANIES OPERATING WITHIN U.S. BORDERS BUT SUCH LEGISLATION IS NOT TRULY APPLICABLE WHEN THESE COMPANIES OPERATE IN LATIN AMERICA. THUS, ACCORDING TO FLIT, U.S. SOCIETY IS PROTECTED FROM THE POTENTIAL ABUSES OF U.S. COMPANIES WHILE LATIN AMERICA IS NOT. WITHOUT SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON THESE COMPANIES, NEW INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES TO CONTROL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ARE WORTHLESS, SERVING ONLY TO OBFUSCATE THE ISSUE AND REPEAT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE.

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6. FLIT ALSO REPEATEDLY MAKES THE POINT THAT PERU IS NOT SEEKING A TECHNOLOGY HAND-OUT AND THAT IT MERELY WANTS TO BE ACCORDED THE RESPECT AND TREATMENT THAT ONE WOULD ACCORD AN EQUAL. HE CLAIMS THAT PERU WANTS TO PAY ITS OWN WAY IN THE TECHNOLOGY FIELD BUT THAT IT DOES NOT WANT TO OVERPAY OR BE EXPLOITED.

7. WE HAVE TAKEN EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE FLIT AND OTHERS THAT THE U.S. IS LISTENING TO THEIR POSITION AND IS TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS AND DESIRES. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NATURE OF OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND STRESSED THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE IN INFLUENCING THE ACTION OF U.S. PRIVATE BUSINESS. WE HAVE DRAWN ON RELEVANT PORTIONS OF REFTEL TO UNDERSCORE THE EFFORT WE ARE NOW MAKING TO DRAW THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR INTO THIS PROCESS.

8. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN ITS BASIC ATTITUDE, PERU IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT IN TERMS OF POLICY OR FINANCING OF ANY INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY UNTIL THE THEORETICAL BASE AND THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCH A SYSTEM APPEAR FAIRLY CONCRETE. PERU IS PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. CAN GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT LATIN AMERICA PERCEIVES AS ITS BASIC NEEDS AND BECAUSE IT FEELS IT CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO PARTICIPATE WHEN THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN CONTROLLING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND AIDING LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT.

9. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT A VISIT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. FLIT, AND THOSE FOR WHOM HE SPEAKS IN THE GOP, FEELS VERY CONFIDENT IN HIS OWN POSITION AND, AT THIS POINT, IS LOOKING FOR SPECIFIC, MEANINGFUL ACTION ON THE PART OF THE U.S.
DEAN

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